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Mr. Stanton's Dispatch.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8, 1864.

Major-General Dix, New York:

This department has received the following reports of the enemy's assault yesterday upon Gen. Butler's lines, their subsequent repulse, and General Birney's brilliant action, driving the enemy to their inner line of intrenchments around Richmond:

"HQ'RS. DEPT. VIRGINIA AND N. CAROLINA,
"6.30 P. M. October 7.

"Lieutenant General Grant:

"At 6.30 A. M., the enemy having moved Field's and Hoke's division from the left at Chapin's farm around to our right at Darbytown road, attacked with spirit General Kautz's cavalry in their entrenchments, and drove him back with small loss of men, but with the loss of his artillery.

"The enemy suffered very considerable loss in his attack. The enemy then swept down the entrenchments toward Birney, who, having thrown back his right, waited their assault and repulsed it, with heavy loss to the enemy. The enemy in the meantime advanced toward New Market, but were met by a force at the signal tower.

"At 3 P. M. I took the offensive, sending Birney, with two divisions up the Darbytown road.

"The enemy has retreated as he Birney advanced, and has occupied the entrenchments which the enemy took from Kautz, and were fortifying for themselves.

"Our loss has been small; not one-eighth of the enemy's. We have about one hundred prisoners.
B. F. BUTLER,
"Major General."

"HQ'RS. DEPT. VIRGINIA AND N. CAROLINA,
"October 7, 12 20 P. M.

"The following dispatch has just been received:
B. F. BUTLER.

"HQ'RS. TENTH ARMY CORPS,
10.15 A. M.

"Major General Butler:

"I have repulsed the attack of the enemy on our right flank with great slaughter. The troops seem to be Field's and Ricketts' divisions. I send you a batch of prisoners. I am extending my right flank. The enemy seem to be entrenching on the Darby road.

"D. B. BIRNEY,
"Major General."

"HQ'RS. DEPT. VIRGINIA AND N. CAROLINA,
10.30 P. M.

"Lieutenant General U. S. Grant:

"General Birney has regained Gen. Kautz's old position, and holds the enemy in the inner line of entrenchments around Richmond, extending from the Darbytown road, to connect with Weitzel, on the left, near Fort Harrison.

"There has been no movement at Petersburg, to day.

"We have much the best of this day's work. A thousand at least of the enemy killed and wounded, a hundred prisoners, and a bloody repulse.

"Gen. Gregg, commanding Field's division, is reported, by a lady who saw the body, as killed.
B. F. BUTLER,
"Major General."

No di-patches have been received from the commands of General Sherman or Sheridan later than were reported in my telegram of yesterday.
EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

FROM SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA—DEFEAT OF BURBRIDGE.

Dispatches from Cincinnati in the Northern papers, this morning, state that "Burbridge, with twenty-five hundred mounted infantry, attacked Saltville, in Southwestern Virginia, where extensive salt works are located. He is said to have carried two redoubts, capturing 150 prisoners, and a number of horses, mules, and cattle, with but small loss. Colonel Mason, 11th Michigan, was killed, and Colonel Hansom, acting brigadier general, wounded. Finding the place strongly fortified and defended by a large force under Breckinridge and Echols, Burbridge withdrew during the night, leaving his wounded. The Confederates pursued him about eight miles. Gen. Burbridge passed through Covington this afternoon, en route to Lexington."

The following are the official dispatches of Gens. Echols and Lee, in relation to the above:

SALTVILLE, Oct. 3, 1864.

To Major General Kemper:

We whipped the enemy badly here yesterday, and he has retired in confusion, leaving his dead and wounded in our hands, among them a Brigadier General and a good many officers. There were two or three regiments of negro troops, which were badly cut up—the reserves and detailed men acted splendidly. The enemy's force was about six thousand, as near as we could estimate. We are in hot pursuit.
JOHN ECHOLS,
Brigadier General.

HQ'RS. ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
October 3, 1864.

Hon. Secretary of War:

General Breckinridge reports that the enemy attacked Saltville on the 3d inst., and received a bloody repulse.

They retired during the night in great confusion, apparently in the direction of Sandy River, leaving most of their dead and wounded in our hands.

He is pursuing them.
All of our troops behaved well.
R. E. LEE.

Special agents have been appointed for the purchase of cotton on U. S. government account, the object being to encourage the sending to market of the crops in the Confederate territory. The regulations of the U. S. Treasury Department are to be enforced in conjunction with the military authority. The following are the names of the agents: George H. Ellery of New York, at Memphis; O. U. Cutter of Missouri, at New Orleans, and Green Adams, of Kentucky, at Nashville. The last named will resign his present position as Sixth Auditor of the Treasury to accept of that appointment.

A dispatch from Washington states that the report of Mr. Davis' speech at Macon is not regarded as authentic, and the New York Express pronounces it "a pure invention."

Some of the Philadelphia papers, having published reports of a disaster to Grant's army; as a means of allaying the excitement caused thereby, and for other reasons, Mr. Lincoln on Sunday afternoon forwarded the following dispatch to Gen. Simon Cameron, Philadelphia:

"There is absolutely no news here from the Army of the Potomac not published in Stanton's bulletin of yesterday and before. The line is open, and mere business despatches are passing over it. Have no alarm on bogus despatches.
A. LINCOLN."

A letter in the Baltimore American says that the store at Sandy Spring, Md., was broken into by "ten of Moseby's men," and \$600 to \$800 worth of boots, shoes, hats, cloths, &c., taken off. The citizens, about seventeen in number, pursued them at daylight, and overtook them eight miles from Sandy Spring; they were asleep in the Pines. They were awakened by one of the citizens riding near them; a fight ensued, when the citizens killed Captain Walter Bowie, and captured his brother Brown Bowie, both sons of W. W. W. Bowie, of Prince George's county, Maryland. Also wounded another.

It is reported that General Early has been relieved from the command of the Valley by General Longstreet. A letter to the Charleston Courier of the 3d inst., asserts that unless Sheridan's force really consists of fifty thousand veterans the South will yet receive a good account from the Valley. The writer adds, that thirteen thousand reserves are already brigaded in Virginia and are to be called out.

General Meade was recently questioning a captured officer about Petersburg. The officer said that just before he came away he saw several hundred newly captured Yankee prisoners being conducted through the streets en route for Richmond. "I had much rather they had been so many cattle," remarked General Meade. "And General Lee had much rather they had been cattle, too," replied the representative of rebellion.

The Boston Courier reports that in the battle of Friday, the 30th of September, near the Weldon Railroad, all of the 58th Massachusetts regiment were either captured or killed, with the exception of one Lieutenant and twenty men. Of the 35th regiment recently recruited by eight hundred Germans, independently of the killed and wounded, about one half of the regiment was captured.

The New York Herald says:—"Dry goods still continue to decline in price in this city.—The fall in the prices of foreign cloth since the downward movement commenced has averaged about thirty per cent."

Twenty three bears have been killed lately in the town of Lewiston, Maine. Their appearance in such numbers in that part of the State is thought by old hunters to indicate a hard winter.